Coroners' Inquests

April 1905 to February 1909

By Liisa Penner

Years ago it was permitted for members of the general public, after signing their names to a list on the County Clerk's front desk, to go into the vault at the office at the Clatsop County Court House to look through the original records: the deeds, naturalizations, marriages, commissioners' journals, judgment rolls, death certificates, etc. It was a good way to learn what records were available and how they were organized. In many ways it is easier to search for information collected by the county now because many records have been microfilmed or digitized by the county or placed online through the Oregon State Archives, available for a fee. Although it is no longer necessary to handle the heavy books, I miss the old days exploring the vault where I often lost track of time. I'm sure many others were just as fascinated with the place as I was. (Twice I was alone down in the basement of the vault at closing time when the lights were suddenly turned off—an interesting experience.)

Off in one corner I found a book of coroner's inquests covering the years from about 1905 to 1909. The inquests were investigations into the cause of death. I took the book upstairs to photocopy the pages. Later I emailed a list of the names of people in the book to Leif Mether as he had asked for lists of local names to put on his Finnish genealogy website. By an odd coincidence, Leif found the name of one of his relatives on the list who had disappeared after a trip to the U.S. many years before, 24-year-old William Mather. Although Leif passed away about ten years ago, the list is still in circulation on the internet. Recently the original record book was turned over to CCHS by personnel at the county and it is at the Heritage Museum now for people to view the complete reports. For more information about the cases listed below, check the newspapers on microfilm at the Astoria Public Library.

The list is a testimony to the numerous threats to life in those years by accident, suicide and murder.

CORONER'S INQUESTS IN CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON, 1905-1908

ACC= accident C.A. = carbolic acid C.AL.= chronic alcoholism DR= drowned
C.L.= cut throat FR. SK.= fractured skull HEART= heart disease LOG= logging
MUR= murder NAT= natural causes S.AL.= severe alcoholism SAW= sawmill
STR = strychnine STRANG= strangled SUI= suicide T.B.= tuberculosis

Note: many of those drowned had been drinking. Most of those who fell, fell at St. Mary's Hospital.

Name	Page	Age	Cause of Death	Date of Death
MATTA, JOHN E.	1	2	BURNED	4-22-05
SMITH, C.A.	2	37	DR	4-6-05
BUCKLEN, GREGORY	3	47	DR	4-30-05

SIPOLA, ANDREW A.	4	20	DR	4-24-05
NORTON, PEARL	5	22	SUI, C.A.	5-30-05
JONES, DELLA	AKA PEARL NORTON			
SEABURG, ANNA	6	22	DR	5-30-05
BROWN, ROBERT	6		DR	5-30-05
LAMMEY, BELLE	7	24	SUI, STR	7-1-05
LARSON, OLE J.	8	31	CRUSHED, SAW	7-17-05
ROE, HENRY	9		SAW	7-20-05
KESLER, GARNER	10	14	DR	7-20-05
CARLSON, EINAR	11	3	HIT BY TRUCK	7-31-05
DAYTON, MILN	12	19	DR	9-4-05
LANE, THEO W.	13		DR	7-27-05
RANNELLS, J.A.	14		DR	8-15-05
GRAHAM, DANIEL	15		HEART	9-17-05
CURRAN, LEONARD	16	23	LOG	9-17-05
FALANGUS, MOSCA	17	2	DR	9-19-05
SOFUSSON?, AXEL	18	16	DR	10-7-05
LAURIE, WILLIE	19	7	DR	10-10-05
STEWART, PETER	20	35	DR	11-3-05
EDDY, W.D.	21	56	SHOT, ACC	10-21-05
BECKMEN?, DANIEL	22	40	SHOT, SUI	11-6-05
MATHER, WILLIAM	23	24	DR, EPILEPSY	11-6-05
YOUNEAUX, KITTY	24	63	HEART?	11-9-05
ALLEN, JOHN J	25	63	DR	11-9-05
HANSEN, CAPT. J.P.	26		DR	12-6-05
JOHNSON, BENJ.	27	36	C.T. DELERIOUS	12-6/7-05
WEST, L.O.	28	38	CRUSHED, LOG	12-4-05
SUPRENANT, JOS. W.	29	56	NAT	12-5-05
ALLARD, LEE	30	24	FELL UNDER TRAIN	ABT DEC. 05
LEHN, JOSEPH	31		C.AL.	1-3-06
UNTANEN?, JOHN GUSTAF	32	32	SUI	7-18-05
HAGGMAN, ELMER E.	33	2	RUN OVER BY ELEC. CAR	4-4-06
FARMER?, ANDY	34	46	FELL, FRACT. SKULL	ABT 4-4-06
LAYZELL, WM.	35	26	SHOT, SUI	4-23-06
KAUPPILA, JOHN	36		C.T.	5-10-06
CRABTREE, HENRY F.	37	24	CRUSHED BY TRAIN	5-23-06
JOSEPHSON, ANTON KRIEG?	38	17	DR	9-24-05
SELANDER, CARL OSCAR	39	20	DR	ABT 5-29-06
JOHNSTON, JOSEPH	40	48	STRUCK BY LOG TRAIN	5-29-06
ROLLAND, WM.	41		DR	5-3-06
UNKNOWN	42		DR	6-19-05?
HUMMASTI, MATTI	43	27	DR	5-15-06
BRUHM?, H.F.	44		DR	6-5-06
HENDRICKSON, GEO	45		DR	6-16-06
BURR, ELLEE	46		NAT	6-17-06
WILSON, WM.	47	60	BURNED	7-11-06
SPEAR, HENRY	48	10	DR	7-11-06
KOSKI, HUGO F.	49	8	DR	7-14-06
OVERLAND, FRANK	50	20	DR	7-15-06

SARTORE, GIOVANNI	51	26	BROKE NECK, SAW	7-20-06
LUOMA, HANNU 52	17	DR		7-13-06
HOWARTER, LARRY	53	13	SHOT SELF, ACC	8-5-06
RASMUSSEN, HANS	54	51	DR, EPILEPSY	8-16-06
HAGGLETON, JOHN WM.	55		DR	8-31-06
DRAKE, HERBERT A.	56	34	S.AL	9-5-06
RISSONEN, KARL ROFARE?	57	CHILD ATE PILLS, STR		9-16-06
ULRECT, R.W.	57	25	DR	9-7-06
MARTIN?, OSCAR 59	28	STRANG, HEART, SUI		9-24-06
GUSTAFSON, ALFRED	60	25	DR, OVERCOME BY FUMES	9-8-06
PETERSON, GUST 61	52	FELL FROM LADDER		ABT 9-8-06
JACKSON, WILLIAM	62	62	FELL DOWN EL. SHAFT	10-5-06
REED, C.H.	63	77	NAT	10-12-06
POULSEN, PAUL	64	27	DR	10-14-06
KUUTI, PAAVO ALIAS PAUL POULSEN				
GRIDER, MALCOLM	65	26	DR	10-26-06
ALATALO, GUST	66	25	DR	10-25-06
ANDERSON, TONY ANTON	67		SHOT SELF, ACC	11-5-06
BALMER, EMIL	68	37	DR	11-10-06
HAGHEL, JOHN M.	69	24	CAUGHT IN MACHINE	11-23-06
LUNDEN, WM.	70	30	DR	11-22-06
MILLER, JOHN D.	71	77	EXPOSURE, MUR	11-29-06
FISHER, GEO.	72	30	SHOT, MUR	12-13-06
SEPP, JOHN	73	38	DR	1-3-07
DAY, BLANCHE	74	17	DRUGGED, MUR?	1-6-07
HUNTER, EDWARD	75	45	C.AL.	1-10-07
PRIES, FRED A.	76	43	FRAC. SK., SAW	1-30-07
PFUND, ROSIE	77	48	STRANG., SUI	2-18-07
MCMILLAN, DUNCAN	78	33	DR	3-1-07
TYBERG, NELS	79	33	CR, LOG	3-3-07
LEWIS, CHAS. E.	80		SHOT, SUI	3-23-07
GLEIM, H.C.	81	35	DRUNK OR DRUGGED	4-4-07
JACOBSON, JOHN	82	43	FELL OUT OF WINDOW	4-23-07
CUNNINGHAM, JOS.	83		FELL DOWN STEPS	ABT 4-23-07
GEORGE, H.F.	84	19	DR	5-25-07
BEESPANEN, ARTHUR	85	6	DR	5-23-07
GALLAGER, THEO	86		SCALDED	5-27-07
LAVI, ALFRED	87	25	DR	5-17-07
UNKNOWN (LEWIS, H.?)	88		DR	6-14-07
LEWIS, HENRY?	88		DR	6-14-07
JENNINGS, CLEVE	89		SHOT, MUR, CONDONED	6-14-07
MORGAN, HERBERT	90	38	DR	6-26-07
PETERSON, LAWRENCE	91	50	DR	7-5-07
ANDERSON, NELS	92	40	DR	7-11-07
BARON, LOUIS	93	19	DR	7-22-07
ANDERSON, NELS ROBT.	94	22	DR	7-14-07
NELSON?, PETER	95	35	DR	7-20-07
HEADINGTON, W.B.	96	70	NAT	8-8-07
AVERY, C.E.	97	39	RUN OVER BY TRAIN	8-14-07

NIEMI, WAINO	98		DR	8-10-07
OLSEN, OLE	99	19	DR	9-5-07
SPENCER, HERBERT	100	26	CRUSHED, SAW	9-23-07
ABBOT, ROBERT	101	32	SHOT, SUI	9-29-07
JOHNSON, EDWIN	102	53	DR	9-30-07
JORGENSEN, WALTER	103	27	FELL ON SHIP	11-5-07
SIGFRIDSON, KAARL	104	50	DR	11-7-07
KEKKONEN, MATT	105		HUNG, SUI	11-4-07
CAMPBELL, JAMES E.	106	68	DR	1-2-08
SHAWNESS, HENRY R.	107	67	DR	1-3-08
EDWARDS, JAMES T.	108	38	DR	12-11-07
ZELLER?, WM. M.	109	23	CRUSHED BY TRAIN, SUI	1-27-08
UNKNOWN	110		DR	JAN 1908?
STANTON, A.	111	22	DR	3-13-08
CARLSON, MARTIN	112		DR	4-22-08
LEHMAN, J.C.	112		DR	4-22-08
CHURCHILL, CLARENCE	113	32	DR	5-7-08
SANDEY, GUST VICTOR	114	57	DR	5-5-08
TARK, HENRY	115		DR	5-26-08
ANDERSON, CONRAD	116	39	DR	6-2-08
QUIGLEY, FRANK	117	33	CRUSHED, LOG	6-18-08
MCCRAY, WM	118	73	STUMP FELL ON HIM	6-30-08
NEMES (NIEMI?), MATTI	119	31	DR	7-2-08
NIEMI, MATTI SEE NEMES				
JOHNSON, JOHN	120	2	DR	7-3-08
NEUNER, GEO.	121	55	DR	7-4-08
MORAST, MARTIN V.	122	9	DR	7-22-08
POLIS, BILL	123	22	DR	7-29-08
AMATSU, HEL	124	36	DR	ABT 7-29-08
BEKURI, KUST	125	36	DR	1908
HELLINI, AXEL	126	20	DR	8-19-08
FABREN, VICTOR	127	56	S. AL.	ABT 8-19-08
VANDERBERG, W.C.	128	75	HEART	ABT SEPT 1908?
OLSEN, ALBERT	129	44	SHOT, ACC.	9-23-08
KNUDSEN, GEO.	130	21	CRUSHED BY TRUCK	10-22-08
COOK, WILLIAM	131	54	HEART	10-24-08
KULJIS, SANTA	132	24	SUI, C.A.	10-30-08
BRIDGHAM, WINNIE	133	17	T.B.	11-7-08
DINDENGER, E.M.	134	43	DR	11-30-08
PAWSON, THOS.	135	44	DR	11-17-08
LONGTAINE, MADALINE	136	17	ABORTION	12-10-08
MEEK, JUDSON	137	51	HEART	ABT 12-10-08
SIPPO, KONSTA	138	23	DR	12-25-08
PETERSON, JULIUS	139	33	PULM HEMMORHAGE	12-27-08
RAIHALA, MATT	140	70	OLD AGE	12-28-08
BURNS, AUNE ELMER	141	6	BURNED	JAN 1909?
BURNS, AGNES	141	5 MON.	BURNED	JAN 1909?
KONIAS, CHRIST	142	32	HIT ON HEAD, MUR	2-5-09
MOON, F.P.	143	56	POISONED BY WIFE?	2-18-09

ANET, ANNA	144	25	SUI, C.A.	2-27-09
HOLQ, EMIL	145	40	CRUSHED ON BOAT	ABT FEB. 1909

Above is an index. Below are a few of the 145 records in the books. In some cases, newspaper accounts were added.

Belle Lammey

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 2nd day of July 1905

Aged 24 years

That she came to her death at Astoria Oregon in the evening of July 1st 1905 and that her death was caused from Strychnine poisoning which she administered to herself with her own hands.

Jurors:
Charles S. Wright
J.G. Ross
J. Strauss
Max Young
L. Hartwig

Witnesses:
J.M. Hughes, Astoria, Lawyer
R.J. Pilkington, Physician
M.L. Henderson, Astoria, Physician
Frank Mansen?, Astoria, Fisherman
S.J. Arrigoni, Astoria, Fireman
Thos. Linville, Astoria, Sheriff

Additional Research: Bell's home in 1900 (census) was in Coquille, Coos County, Oregon. She born in 1870 in Oregon and was married to Milers Lammey in 1899. Her parents were born in Oregon. One child was born to them and one was alive but not listed with them on census. Miles was a day laborer in a logging camp. The child, Helen Lamey, was married in 1928 to Herbert Arnold in Vancouver Washington. She was 28. Miles and Bell were listed as her parents on the marriage application.

The Morning Astorian of July 2, 1905

TAKES HER OWN LIFE

Mrs. Belle Lammey Swallows Dose of Strychnine.

DESPONDENCY THE CAUSE

Leaves Letter to Father Indicating Despondency. Has lived Here for Some Months in Lodging House Where the Rash Act Was Committed.

Mrs. Bell Lammey, who with her two children, has lived over the lodging house on Ninth street, at the foot of Astor street, committed suicide last night by taking strychnine. City Physician Pilkington was called and administered the strongest antidote known to medical science, but his efforts were unavailing. The woman died half an hour after taking the fatal draught. Coroner Pohl was notified immediately and took the body to the morgue. All papers and letters and personal effects belonging to the unfortunate woman were given to the coroner's care by Dr. Pilkington.

Mrs. Lammey, after leaving her husband, came here last November from Elma, Wash. In January the husband followed and took the woman with the two children home. She remained with him but a short time, however, returning to this city.

Several letters, including one to her father, were found. To the parent she wrote:

"My dear father: I will answer your kind letter, was more than glad to hear from you. Well, father, everything is closed down here and there is no work to get and times are hard here and I don't think you would like it here as times are hard and no work to get."

Coroner Pohl will summon a jury Monday to inquire into the c? of her death when all of the letters will be introduced as evidence.

Robert Brown Greenwood Cemetery

Deceased (Anna Seaborg) with a party consisting of ?? and Robt Brown were returning in a fish boat from Greenwood Cemetery on May 30, 1905 while walking from one end of the boat to the other Anna Seaborg fell overboard, Robt Brown jumped after her to rescue her but both were drowned.

The body of Anna Seaborg was found floating on the river by the crew of the Str. *Shamrock* on June 5th near the RR. Depot dock, the drowning occurred towards Smith Point.

The Remains of Robt Brown were picked up in Long Beach by the U.S. Life Saving Crew on June 9th.--Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Ole J. Larson

Inquest at Westport Oregon on the 18th Day of July 1905

Aged 31 years

He came to his death in Westport Oregon on July 17th 1905, while repairing ? saw carriage chopping underhand blocks, a timber which he had propped up behind him ? over and caught him between the head blocks and the timber crushing his left breast. He died in about ten minutes. He had been warned by Harry Bond but being an experienced mill man no doubt thought he knew what he was doing and did not heed the warning, no blame can be attached to any one else. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
Harry Bond, Westport, Foreman Westport Lumber Co.
J. Coates, Westport, millman

Kitty Youreux -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest at Astoria Oreg on 9th day of Nov. 1905

Aged 63 years old

Kitty Youreux, better known as "Texas" was found dead in her bed over the La Tosca Saloon on Astor street about midnight Nov 9th 1905. She had been dead for some hours. An investigation proved that her death was due to natural causes, the exact nature of which could not be determined except by an autopsy which I deemed unnecessary. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witness: A.T. Brakke, Astoria, Saloon Keeper

Wm. Layzell -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Astoria Oreg on the 24th day of April 1906

Aged 26 years

That he came to his death at Astoria, Clatsop Co., Oregon on April 23rd, 1906 and that his death was caused by a gunshot wound in his head inflicted by a gun in his own hands. --Wm. C.A. Pohl

Jury:
C.S. Wright
W.J. Barry
Max Stral
R. Carruthers
C.W. Spriggs
A.J.C. Schroder

Witnesses:
Walter Ridehalgh, Astoria, 10 years
Floyd Munson, Astoria, 13 years
Charles Gammal, Astoria, Chief of Police
J.A. Fulton, Astoria, Physician
Harry Upshur, Astoria, 14 years

Inventory:
$5.45 found on remains of Wm. Layzell, Signed G.C. Layzell

Henry F. Crabtree Ft. Stevens Cemetery

Inquest at Ft. Stevens on May 23, 1906

Aged 24 years

Witness:
Gerald Bagwell, Ft. Stevens, U.S. Govt Engineer
John Copeland, Do, Brakeman
Wm. Copeland, Do, Engineer

Deceased was crushed by a rock train on the Jetty at Ft. Stevens on May ?, 1906 at 7:20 A.M. right leg mangled and severed from his body at the hip, left foot mangled, arm broken near elbow, right arm. He tried to board the train while in motion. He was a native of Alabama, had been employed since the 7th of May as a laborer but had been working at the same work in 1905 for 2 months. --Wm. C. A. Pohl, Coroner

Joseph Johnston

Inquest at Astoria Oreg on the 30th day of May 1906

Aged 48

Deceased was killed at Kellys Logging Camp in Blind Slough on May 29th 1906 being struck in the abdomen by the end of a butt chain which accidentally broke. He lived for some time but died before medical assistance could reach him and no doubt would have died any way. Accident happened in the presence of Hayes, Smith and Forsythe. --Wm. C.R. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
F.C. Christie, Blind Slough, Logger
A.E. Hayes, Blind Slough, Logger
Roy Forsyth, Blind Slough, Logger
O.B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
Charles Smith, Blind Slough, Logger

Wm. Rolland

Inquest held at Astoria Oreg on the 2nd day of June 1906

Deceased was found drowned in the Columbia River on June 2d 1906. He had been last seen alive on May 3rd 1906, intoxicated near Warrens Cold Storage foot of 7th Street. Had been employed by Wm. Bock as a barkeeper for a week or so previously, was but little known here. Buried in Potters field. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witness:
Wm. Bock, Astoria, Saloon Keeper

Inventory of Personal effects:
$12.75 from Wm. Bock

How disposed of and where deposited:
Paid Portland Rent 3.90
Cr in Funeral 8.85
By order of C.J. Trenchard, County Judge

Matts Hummasti -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest at Astoria, Oreg on the 10th and 13th of June 1906

Aged 27 years

That Matts Hummasti came to his death from accidental drowning in the Columbia River opposite Astoria Oregon on May 15th 1906 about 3 oclock A.M. That the drowning was caused by his fishing boat

colliding with the steamer *Costa Rica* and that those in charge of the steamer *Costa Rica* were not to blame in the matter, there being no light in said fishing boat. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
W.N. Smith
E.M. Houghton
H. Twilight
Chas. C. Rosenberg
Wm. Fitzgerald
W.C. Laws

Witnesses:
O.B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
Henry Hummasti, Astoria, fisherman
Hiram Leinenweber, Astoria, Oil Magnate
W.C. Snow, Astoria, River Pilot
W.A. Betts, Astoria, River Pilot

Geo. Hendrickson -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 16th day of June 1906

Aged about 30

Deceased fell into the Columbia River at George & Barker Cannery through the Water Closet on the evening of June 16th 1906 while in an intoxicated condition. His remains were found a short time afterwards, perhaps an hour. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
Willis Duger, Astoria, Clerk
Knute Larsen, Astoria, Fisherman

Newspaper - *Morning Astorian* June 17, 1906

Drowns in River.—About eight o'clock last night, George Hendrickson, a boatpuller for Sanborn-Cutting Company, fell from the net racks belonging to the company and was drowned. At the time of the accident there was no person near save a number of small children, who saw the fall. As quickly as possible the children summoned aid, but by this time it was too late to save the unfortunate man and the body was not recovered until about an hour later. He was removed to the Pohl undertaking parlors until further arrangements can be made for the disposition of the body. Hendrickson had but lately come from Portland to fish for the season, and was 26 years of age. He was a native of Norway, having been in the country for two years.

Wm. Wilson

Inquest at Astoria, Oreg on the 11th day of July 1906

Aged about 60

Deceased was accidentally burned to death on the morning of July 11th 1906 at the fire of 5th St. Astoria Oregon. He had been partly paralyzed and lived alone in a boat house. How the fire originated is not known, but when the firemen broke open the door his charred remains were found. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witness:
C.E. Foster, Astoria, Chief of Fire Department

Giovanni Sartore

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 20th and 21st days of July 1906

Aged 26 years

That he came to his death at Astoria, Clatsop County, Oregon on July 20th 1906, that the cause of his death was from the broken neck, accidentally caused by a wrong ?ment of a man who attempted to assist him in clearing a belt at the Clatsop Mill.

Jury:
A.W. Pharton?
F.W. Gardener
J.G. Meibohn
R.G. Lee
B. Bohnert
A.L. Steele

Witnesses:
O.B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
L.L. Paldanius, Astoria, Shipper?, Clatsop Mill
A.P. Graham, Astoria, Engineer, Clatsop Mill
Andrew Fredrickson, Astoria, Laborer, Clatsop Mill
G.C. McRobert, Astoria, Fireman, Clatsop Mill
A. Brown, Astoria, Oiler, Clatsop Mill

Newspaper Morning Astorian July 21, 1906

TERRIBLE DEATH AT CLATSOP MILLS

YOUNG ITALIAN CAUGHT IN WHEEL OF MACHINERY IN AN OVER-ZEALOUS ATTEMPT TO CLEAR A JAM, YESTERDAY.

Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, Juan Sartore, a young Italian employe of the Clatsop Milling Company, met instant death in the machinery of the mill in an effort to break a jam in the slab conveyor, the belting catching him about the head and shoulders and drawing him into the powerful mechanism. His head was literally smashed to a pulp and his neck broken; the only merciful phase of the accident being its extraordinary swiftness, which precluded the sum of agony he must have suffered in a less speedy action of the gear.

He was about 25 years of age, without family of his own, but with a few kinsmen here, an aunt and uncle, and was thoroughly well liked by his employers and by his mates about the mill.

There was no call for him to make the effort, he did, as the work of clearing the conveyor was assigned to another man who was entirely proficient in the task, and the awful fate that overtook him, was but the penalty that so frequently falls to the overzealous.

His body was taken in charge by Coroner W.C.A. Pohl who will prepare it for burial, and the funeral will be held under the auspices of the Knights of the Macabees of which order he was a member in good standing, and carrying a policy for $500. The funeral will probably take place on Sunday.

Hannes Luoma -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Jetty Sands on the 28th day of July 1906

Aged 17 years

Deceased came to his death in July 13th 1906 on the Columbia River Bar from accidental drowning while fishing. Remains found on July 27th 1906 on Jetty Sands. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Leroy [Larry?] Howarton

Inquest held at Lewis & Clark on the 5th day of Aug 1906

Aged 13 years

Deceased accidentally shot himself in the head on Aug 5th 1906 in C.S. Browns Ranch on Lewis and Clark with a shotgun while back of the house shooting Blue Jays, the only witness being Clyde his 11 year old Brother. Death must have been instantaneous. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
David Howarter, Lewis & Clark, Farmer, Father of the deceased
Clyde Howarter, Lewis & Clark, Brother of the deceased
B.A. Owens Adair, Sunny Mead, Physician

Herbert A. Drake

Inquest at Astoria Oreg. on the 6th day of Sept 1906

Aged 34 years

Deceased died at Kellys Logging Camp in Blind Slough on Sept 5th 1906. He had been on a protracted spree and went to work again on the 3rd of Sept, in his craving for drink, he drank almost everything he could lay his hands on that might contain alcohol, such as Hair Tonic and Medicine. On Sept 5th about 6 P.M. he took violently ill and died about 11:30. He either drank some thing too strong or else died from severe alcoholism. --W.C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
S.G. Williams, Skamokawa, Editor
D.L. Kelly, Blind Slough, Logger

Malcolm Grider -- Oceanview Cemetery

Inquest at Warrenton Oreg on the 26th day of Oct 1906

Aged 26 years

Deceased came to his death on the Ocean Beach near Point Adams in an attempt to get ashore from the wreck of the *Peter Iredale*, he being drowned in said attempt, about 1:30 A.M. on the morning of Oct 26th 1906, he was in company of Judd, Wick, Stevens and others. The remains were found in about 10 minutes, an attempt made to restore him to life but without avail, remains taken to his home at Warrenton where I examined him. --Wm. C.A. Pohl

Witnesses:
Mary Harrison, Warrenton, Mother of Deceased
Dr. C. Judd, Warrenton, Physician
C. Wick, Warrenton, Painter
Stinson, Warrenton, Clerk

Note: The ship came on shore the day before so he must have been curious about the wreck and climbed up on it.

John D. Miller

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 17th day of Dec. 1906

Aged 77 years

That he came to his death at Astoria, Clatsop County Oregon on November 29th 1906 and that his death resulted from exposure and injuries inflicted on him at his scow near Aldrich Point, Clatsop County Oregon by persons unknown to us who went there and committed this deed for the purpose of robbery and we charge them with the crime of murder. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
J.N. Law
F.W. Gardiner
T.J. B?
D.R. Blesset?
Chas C. Rosenberg
H.A. Kraus

Witnesses:
J.A. Fulton, Astoria, Physician
Alex Moody, Blind Slough, Farmer
Nicholas Christensen, Blind Slough, Farmer
M.R. Pomeroy, Astoria, Sheriff
W.A. Patterson, Clifton, Postmaster

George Fisher

Inquest at Astoria, Ore. on the 14th day of Dec. 1906

Aged about 30 years

That said Fisher came to his death at Astoria Clatsop County Oregon on December 13th 1906 and that his death was caused from a gunshot wound inflicted by a gun in the hands of C.M. Forest and that said shooting was contrary to the laws of the State of Oregon and that said C.M. Forest is guilty of the crime of murder. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
W.C. Shaw

L.E. Selig
Wm. Dench
W.L. McCrosky
F.W. Gardener
R. Carruthers

Witnesses:
J.A. Fulton, Astoria, Physician
Martin Peterson, Astoria, 1st Mate *Annie Larsen*
Peter Penfret, 436-Tenth St., Longshoreman
C. Cooper, Near Ball Grounds Between 7 and 8th St., Longshoreman
Jacob Peterson, Near Scandinavian Cannery, Longshoreman
Marius Lettes, Sailor, *Annie Larsen*
Chas. Gammal, Astoria, Chief of Police
C.M. Forrest, Astoria, Captain *Annie Larsen*

Blanche Day -- Greenwood Cemetery

John Goodenberger did a talk on this woman at the Heritage Museum a few years ago.

Inquest at Astoria, Oreg on the 9th 16th & 31st day of Jan 1907

Aged 17 years 6 mo. 28 days

We the undersigned Jurors sworn to enquire into the cause of death of Blanche Day, on oath do find: That said
Blanche Day came from Seattle to Astoria in company with C.R. Fox. That they registered at the Merwyn Hotel as C.R. Fox and wife on the 4th day of Jan 1907 at 11 P.M., that on the 5th day of January the said Blanche Day became an inmate of the "Waldorf" Northwest Corner 8th and Astor St. and assigned Room 18 by Manager Julius Wilberg that between 7:30 and 8 o oclock P.M. Jan. 6th 1907 she was taken ill with what the Medical testimony gives as opiate poisoning. At about 3:27 A.M. Jan 7th 1907 she was taken from the Waldorf to St. Marys Hospital when she did at 4 oclock A.M. We further find that her age was 17 years 6 months and 27 days and further find that we are unable to determine, as to how or by when said opiate poison was administered, or what kind or quantity of opiate was used, we however do not believe it to be a case of suicide. We further find numerous severe burns on the body, caused as we are informed by the application of hot water bottles used in the treatment of the case, also bruises on the limbs caused as we are informed by the application of hot water bottles used in the treatment of the case, also bruises on the limbs caused, as we are informed, by rough handling.

Verdict of Jury

We have endeavored to secure the attendance of C.R. Fox or Roy Fox the man who came to Astoria with deceased and we have been informed by officials both County and City, that they have been unable to locate him. Our Foreman under our instructions has filed a criminal charge against said C Roy Fox, of inducing a minor to visit a house of Prostitution. We further recommend a full investigation of this case by the Honorable Circuit Judge and that a Grand Jury be called for that purpose. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Names of Jurors
W.J. Barry [Son-in-law of Bridget Grant, and a Chief of Police "a fox in charge of the hen house."]
Wm. Ross
A.G. Spexarth [Sold guns and sewing machines and did repairs]
P. Lawler

J.G. Meibohm
K. Osburn [Police Judge]

Witnesses:
O.B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
R.J. Pilkington, Astoria Physician
C.F. Wise, Astoria, Saloon Keeper
Fred Woods, Astoria, Barber
Myrtle McCready, Astoria, Dance Girl at Waldorf
Julius Wilberg, Astoria, Manager, Dance Hall
Grace Lawrence, Astoria, Dance Girl at Waldorf, alias Lucille Vernon?, Sister of Deceased
Charles Gammal, Chief of Police
Laura Green, Dance Girl at Waldorf
Josie A. Smith, Astoria, Manager, Hotel Manager
Edith Redman, Astoria Chambermaid
Arthur Marks, Astoria, Express driver, Sherman Transfer Co.
Thos. Linville, Astoria, Police officer
Elizabeth Darling, Astoria, Nurse
M.R. Pomeroy, Astoria, Sheriff

Edward Hunter

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 10th day of Jan 1907

About 45 years

Deceased was found dead in the City Jail at Astoria, Oregon in the morning of Jan 10th 1907. His death was due to Chronic Alcoholism. [Evidently, in the basement of the Heritage Museum] –Coroner: Wm. C. A. Pohl

Witnesses:
H.L. Henderson, Astoria, Physician
Chas. Gammal, Astoria, Chief of Police

Newspaper, January 11, 1907, page 5 Morning Astorian

Died in Jail

After twenty-four hours of delirium tremens, Edward Hunter, an Englishman, died in the city jail last night. Deceased was 45 years of age and was not married. He was by profession an engineer. The interment will probably be at the expense of the county.

1900 Federal Census Edward Hunter, 37, born Sept 1862 in England, residing in Svensen, Clatsop County, Oregon, immigrated to U.S. in 1886, single, father born in Ireland, mother born in England, naturalized, fisherman, one month not employed, and read, write and speak English, living with a partner Frank C. Falls, 37 years of age, fisherman, to U.S in `88, born Scotland.

Rosa Pfund

Inquest held at Svensen, Oregon on the 19th day of Feb. 1907

Aged 48 years

That she came to her death at Svensen Clatsop County Oregon on Feb. 18th 1907 from strangulation, suicide, committed while insane. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
Thos. Bush
Wm. Hall
Jacob Sold
R. Sloop
J.A. Ekstrom

Witnesses:
Jacob Sold, Svensen, Farmer
Thos. Bush, Svensen, Farmer
Wm. Bush, Svensen, Farmer
Christian Blum, Portland, Butcher [Rosie's maiden name was Blum]

[Rosa had nine children in ten years. They were Ernest, John, David, Magdalena, Christopher, Samuel, Henry, Jacob and Elizabeth. Mary Riddle's diary (Fall 1984, page 34) notes: Jan. 2, 1910: "Mr. Pfundt's two, sweet little girls came to see me today. Little Madeline is her father's only housekeeper since her mother died three years ago."]

James Cunningham -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Astoria, Oregon on the 26th day of April 1907

Aged 63 years

Deceased came to his death from a fracture of the base of the skull falling down the steps of St. Marys Hospital while in an intoxicated condition. He lived about 8 hours.

Was removed to the jail after the fall but finally returned to the hospital where he died. Was not a patient at the hospital but came there for some purpose unknown. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
J.A. Fulton, Astoria, surgeon
C. Gammal, Astoria, Chief of Police
F. Oberg, Astoria, Policeman

[The jail was in the Heritage Museum basement.]

Cleve Jennings Buried Marshfield, Coos Bay

Inquest held at Astoria on the 13th , 18th & 19th of June 1907

Aged 23 years
State of Oregon
County of Clatsop ss

We the undersigned Jurors sworn to enquire into the cause of death of Cleve Jennings on oath do find:

That said Cleve Jennings came to his death at Astoria, Clatsop County Oregon on June 14th 1907 at St. Marys Hospital, that his death was caused from a gunshot wound in the body inflicted by a weapon in the hands of J.H. Bowlsby.

We further find that after fully considering the evidence submitted to us the shooting was justifiable and therefore recommend that the defendant be released from custody.

The evidence shows that the defendant and his wife had lived together in peace and happiness for a period of over Fifteen years and until the serpent entered their household in the shape of Cleve Jennings and destroyed their home.

We are further of the opinion on account of the lack of statutes covering crimes of this character that said Bowlsby was fully justified in shooting the said Jennings.

Jury:
J.N. Laws, Foreman
J. Strauss
P. Lawler
A.L. Steele
E.A. Coe
E.C. Jeffers

Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
J.A. Fulton, Astoria [Physician]
J.H. Bowlsby, Undertaker, North Bend Oregon
Abe Ross, 335 Monroe St., Portland Oregon, Oiler in *Alliance*
Fred Thurston, Fireman on steamer *Alliance*
M.R. Pomeroy, Astoria, Sheriff
Charles E. Mitchell, wharfinger
Chas. Haddix, Astoria, Customs Inspector
Wm. T. Grossman, Astoria, Pawnbroker
Margaret Overton, Astoria, Lodging House
John McCue, Astoria, Attorney
Nancy T. Bowlsby, North Bend
Mary Spellmyer, Astoria, Rooming House
B.W. Olsen, Portland, Master Str. *Alliance*
T. Whitney, Astoria, Laborer
John Harold, Astoria, Laborer
Wm. Harold, Astoria, Laborer

Inventory: Revolvers and letters and papers to P.L. Goodman

photo

Waino Niemi -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon on the 17th & 18th day of August 1907 and Sept 10, 1907

That Waino Niemi came to his death from drowning in the Columbia River at Astoria Oregon on or about the 10th day of August 1907 but we are unable to determine owing to the lack of evidence whether such drowning was accidental or otherwise. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
N.J. Judah
John Hanson
H.F. Kempe
G.O. Moen
Emil Palmberg

Witnesses:
O.B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
Otto Ness, 377-29th St, Astoria, Blacksmith
Gust Rautio, Astoria, Laborer

Joseph Finander, Astoria, Blacksmith
Willy Thompson, Astoria, Barkeeper
Chas. Pietila, Astoria, Barkeeper
Andrew Far, Astoria, Fisherman

[Photo of Waino Niemi is in the Inquest book.]

The Morning Astorian of August 17, 1907

MYSTERIOUS DROWNING

Waino Niemi, Who Arrived in Astoria Recently, Found Drowned

The body of a young man was picked up in the lower river last evening and turned over to Coroner Pohl who will probably hold an inquest to determine the circumstances surrounding the drowning yesterday morning.

The body has been positively identified as that of Waino Niemi, a native of Finland, 20 years of age who came to this city from Seattle on the noon train last Saturday in company with a friend.

Niemi's friend was acquainted in Astoria and on their arrival here they went to visit some friends of this party and so spent the afternoon together.

Niemi went to the lower end of the city where he is reported to have been drinking and gambling after which he disappeared and nothing was known of him until his body was found. In his pockets were found two cents in money, a revolver and some personal papers that showed he had been a railroad laborer. His friend says that upon his arrival here Niemi had some money on his person that is now estimated to have been over $35 although it was first reported that he had $200. There are no marks of violence on the body so it will be difficult to determine whether his drowning was accidental or the result of foul play. A Searching investigation will be held.

Ole Olsen -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest at Astoria Oregon on the 5th day of Sept 1907

Aged 19 years (Norwegian)

Deceased was accidentally drowned in the Columbia River near the Astoria Box Co. Mill at Astoria Oregon on Sept 5th 1907 while bathing. The remains were found about one hour later.--Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
Andrew Bue, Astoria, Janitor
Chas. Bergman, Astoria, Watchman at Cannery

Herbert Spencer– Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest held at Westport, Oregon on the 24th day of Sept 1907

Aged 26 years

He came to his death at Westport, Clatsop County Oregon from being crushed in the sawmill of the Westport Lumber Co. on Sept 23rd 1907 through his own fault in starting the carriage which was not his place at all. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
Fred Hoyt, Westport, Sawyer (saw mill)
John Erlander, Westport, Digger
J.W. Paliser?, Westport, President Westport Lumber Co.
H.L. Henderson, Astoria, Physician

Kaarl Sigfridson and his son George

Inquest on the 8th November 1907

Aged 50 years and 5 years

Deceased and his son also deceased were in some manner accidentally drowned near the Corporation Warehouse, Upper Astoria Oregon on the evening of Nov 7th 1907. The remains were found near the scene of the accident in the morning of the 8th 1907. It is most likely that the child fell into the river and the father perished in an attempt to save him. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

No witnesses.

Wm. McLellan

Inquest held at Astoria, Oregon on the 30th day of Jan 1908

Aged 23 years

That he has been fully identified to our satisfaction as Wm. McLellan, aged about 23 years formerly employed at the Clatsop Mill in this City. That he came to his death on Jan. 27th 1908 on the Astoria & Columbia Railroad track, above Tongue Point, Clatsop County Oregon by being crushed by a train, throwing himself in front of an approaching train thus committing suicide. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
Maxwell Young
Thomas Ryan
Frank Gamble
G.O. Moen
A.L. Steele
F.W. Gardiner

Witnesses:
H.L. Henderson, Astoria, Physician
Hector Hollis, 1718 Irving, Talleyman in mill
C.F. Walch, 621 Exchange, Locomotive engineer
Henry Reifel, 335-18th, Locomotive fireman

From the *Morning Astorian* on Jan. 31, 1908: The coroner has been instructed to bury the body here by the young man's mother who wired from Wyoming, Ontario.

Unknown Man

Inquest held at Cannon Beach on the 7th day of March 1908

Remains were found near Haystack Rock on the Ocean Beach on March 6th and I examined them on March 7th, found the remains of a man, entirely nude, no marks on anything to indicate his identity. He had been dead for some time, 3 weeks or more, one arm was gone and he was falling to pieces. I buried the remains near the scene. --Wm. C. A. Pohl, Coroner

Martin Carlson and J.C. Lehman -- Oceanview Cemetery

Inquest held at Ft. Stevens, Oreg. On the 22nd of April and 1st day of May 1908

That they came to their death at Ft. Stevens Oregon on April 22nd 1908 from injuries received by the upsetting of the government Pile Driver on the jetty at the entrance to the Columbia River, thus throwing them from the jetty into the water of the river or Ocean and we further find that said accident was caused by a switch being thrown wrong. --Wm. C. A. Pohl, Coroner

Jury:
C.F. MDermett, fireman
J.G. Cassutt
D.P. Callivan
Henry Yeager
W. Westmann
Ed Alarick

Witnesses:
Astor Carlson, Hammond, laborer
J.C. Tenbrook, Ft. Stevens Pile driver foreman
Gerald Bagwell, Ft. Stevens U.S. Engineer
Charles J. Stedman Ft. Stevens, U.S. Army surveyor, 1st Lieut.
Thos Hansell, Portland, Engineer & Machinist
A Bell, Hammond, Brakeman

William McCray

Inquest at Svensen Oregon on the 30th day of June 08

Aged 73 years

Deceased was working on the road near Svensen chopping down a stump, in some manner the stump fell and crushed him, breaking his back and right leg, he was alone at the time and no one knew of the accident until he did not come to his dinner. Neil Hunt found him under the stump. On June 30th 1908. He was dead when found. --Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

Witnesses:
Neil Hunt, Svensen, Farmer
Peter Olsen, Svensen, Farmer
H.L. Hendrickson, Astoria, Physician

Martin V. Morast -- Oceanview Cemetery

Inquest held at Skippanon, Ore. on the 23rd day of July 1908

Age 9 years 5 mo. 17 days

The child was sent for the cow about 6:30 P.M. July 22nd 08 and when he did not return as expected – search was instituted with the result that he was found in the river (about fifty yards from their home) at 8:15 P.M. July 22nd 08. I found no evidence of violence other than drowning. --J.A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

Witnesses:
Mrs. Martin Morast, Skippanon, House Wife, Mother of child
C.W. White, Warrenton, Merchant

Santa Kuljis -- Greenwood Cemetery

Inquest 31st Oct. 1908 at Clifton Ore. Oct 31st 1908

Aged 24 years, female, native of Oregon

We the Jury summoned by Coroner J.A. Gilbaugh of Clatsop County State of Ore to enquire into the cause of the death of Mrs. Santa Kuljis at Clifton, Ore. In said county on the 30th day of Oct. 1908; after learning the testimony presented at the inquest, do find that the said Mrs. Santa Kuljis came to her death by taking an overdose of carbolic acid with suicidal intent due to morbid dementia. --Signed by Jury, J.A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

Jurors:
John W. Welch
N.J. Judah
W.L. McCroskey
G.H. Spicer
William Dench
T.J. Markham

Witnesses:
Fred Peacock, Cathlamet, Wash. Physician
Antone Kuljis, Clifton, Saloon Keeper
Mrs. Philomen, Clifton
John Philomen, Clifton Logger
Mrs. Marincovich, Clifton
Mrs. John Adamaple, Clifton

Winnie Bridgham -- Oceanview Cemetery

Inquest at Hunters Cabin in the Beach below Warrenton Owned by Kenney Bros. on the 7th day of Nov. 8, 1908.

Aged 17 years, female

Native of Oregon

Deceased came to her death Nov. 7th 1908 of Tuberculosis. She had been sick for some time and there was no Physician employed as the family had no means with which to pay and they did not realize the true condition of the matter. All the evidence was clear in the case and there was no need of an inquest under the circumstances. --J.A. Gilbaugh

Witnesses:

Frank Vitteto, Hunters Cabin, Laborer
J.J. Kenney, Astoria
Emma [Anna?] McMillen

[J.J. Kenney ran a bordello and saloons and gambling. His story is in the 2010 Fall Cumtux. Anna McMillen was a madam on Astor Street who married Jack Bay in 1920. He and J.J. Kenney were partners. One conclusion is that poor Winnie was a prostitute working for Anna McMillan Bay.]
Additional Research:

In a drunken rage, Winnie's father, Frank O. Bridgham, killed her mother, Luella, shooting her. He was sentenced to die, but the sentence was later commuted to life in prison. The couple had a large number of children. One year after the murder, he signed away one of his younger daughters (Louise) to be adopted by a couple. The adoptive wife died soon after. The census shows Louise with the adoptive husband and his brother. The next census shows Louise as a servant living with a wealthy family who had a shoe store in Astoria. Her husband Frank Vitteto also had a troubled life. When young, Frank Vitteto and his sister were listed on the 1880 census schedule for the Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes of children in Knoxville, Tennessee, with the label "Homeless Children." According to the newspaper Nov. 8, 1908 *Morning Astorian*:

Young Girl Dies—

Winnie Bridgham, 17 years of age, died at the home of her brother-in-law, Frank Vitteto, at what is called Hunter's cabin on Clatsop Beach, yesterday, and Coroner Gilbaugh was asked to make investigation of her death. There was no need of his services as a county official, however, as the girl died a natural death. She was afflicted with consumption, and in her passing there is much that seems sad. It is said she comes from a family that is well to do, but there was some trouble [an understatement] and the family is scattered. She was ill with tuberculosis and it seemed there was no place for her to go, among her immediate relatives, so she went to the home of her brother in law at Clatsop beach, who has himself been very ill for months. Mr. Gilbaugh is endeavoring to get in communication with some of the brothers of the dead girl, one of whom is supposed to be in Portland. The dead girl's home was somewhere in the State of Washington, and meantime Mr. Gilbaugh is seeing that everything proper is being done. The brother in law [Frank Vitteto] is said to be hardly able to assist much. [In spite of being so ill, Frank lived to be 79.]

Thomas Pawson

Inquest at Seaside Ore
On the 2nd day of Dec. 8th
Aged 44 years, Native of Wisconsin

Mr. Thomas Pawson came to his death Nov. 17th 08 in the Necanicum river near camp #2 of the Seaside Lumber & Mfg. Co. while trying to cross the river on a log Jam he accidentally slipped and fell in the river, he never came up and the men that was working with him were unable to give him any assistance, his body was sought for continually, but was not found until Dec. 1st 08 at 4:30 P.M. --J.A Gilbaugh

Witness: W.C. Schultze, Seaside Ore, Physician

Inventory:
Money found in pocket $3.65 – turned over to his son, Albert Pawson

Mats Raehala

Inquest held at Astoria Oregon 28 Dec. 1908

Aged 70 years, Native of Finland

Occupation farmer but had not worked for several years

Mats Raehala died at his home above upper town on the old military road Dec. 28th 08 of General Debility – he had been sick for several years – was in St. Marys Hosp. 2 ½ years before for an operation which was all right but he never got well even after that and the circumstances of himself & wife would not permit spending much money and that was the reason a Physician was not employed after the operation. --J.A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

Witnesses:
Mrs. Raehala, Astoria, house wife
John Williams, Astoria, Fisherman

Arne Elmer Burns and Agnes Burns – Greenwood Cemetery

Astoria Oregon, Inquest held on 15th of Jan 1909

Natives of Oregon, Aged 2 yrs 6 mo. And 5 mo.

Children were left alone in bed room with fire in stove and the oldest child got out of bed and played with the stove and got the room on fire in some manner unknown. The boy was found on the floor and the girl was found in the bed by Peter Carlson. --J. A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

Witnesses:
R.J. Pilkington, Astoria, Physician
Peter Carlson, Astoria, Fisherman
Victor Burns, Astoria, Boarding House Proprietor

[There is a very long newspaper article about the fire.]

HOME FIRE CLAIMS LITTLE LAD'S LIFE

East Exchange Street fire Yesterday Morning Makes Very Sad Chronicle

The very saddest chronicle in the fire history of this city for many a day, was made yesterday morning in the fire that swept the little home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Burns, of Uppertown, out of existence, and which involved the lives of their baby son and daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Burns, a young couple in their middle twenties, arrived in this city about the first of the present month and at once closed negotiations whereby they took o0ver the boarding house on the south side of Exchange street, two doors west of Twenty-ninth street, which included a small, single

story cottage in the rear, in which they made their own habitat; they had two children, Arne Elmer, a boy of nearly three years, and a baby daughter, of five months, Agnes. With these they made their new home and were happy in the fair prospects their little money and large energy held out for them in the well-patronized boarding house, and in the fact that Mr. Burns had already secured a place in the Clatsop Mills that paid him fairly well. Both are workers and savers, thrifty and intelligent, and are entitled to and possessed of the general respect of all who know them.

Yesterday morning, while her husband was down in the city attending to some purchases for the house, Mrs. Burns put the children to bed in the family cottage and fixing the stove so that it might be safe against accident went into the boarding house to make up the beds and prepare things for dinner and the hungry ho0rde of boarders that would assemble there at noon. She was busy, singing over her work, and chatting with the other women about her, when the cry of fire was sounded and someone dispatched a call into the department over the wires of box No. 12. Rushing out to see where it was, Mrs. Burns was terrified to find her home in flames and great volumes of smoke pouring out of every door and window in the building. She screamed for help and made a run for the cottage, but when she reached it she found a young man ahead of her, who told her he would go in and do what could be done to save the children. This was Peter Carlson, a well-known fisherman who resides at 966 Franklin avenue, who happened to be passing at the time and saw the flames back in the alley, from Exchange street, and suspected there was something radically wrong with a building that was allowed to burn to that limit in the very nest of a hundred homes crowded on the hillside block. He broke into the doors, but could see nothing for the dense smoke that filled the establishment; but feeling about with his feet and hands, he soon came in contact with the body of the little boy lying on the floor near the stove.

Mr. Carlson grabbed the little fellow and put his head beneath his coat to spare it from fumes and flames and started into another room, but before he had gone there steps he heard the smothered cries of an infant, and instantly began a search for the baby. This he found on the bed in one corner of the room and hastily picking it up, fled from the house which was becoming intolerable from heat and smoke. Once outside there were plenty of willing, womanly hands to relieve him of his burdens and he turned the babies over to the first woman he came to. In the meantime Mrs. Burns had fainted from terror and the crushing convictions borne in upon her, and was being kindly cared for by her neighbors and friends. A number of calls for physicians were sent out and Doctors Pilkington, Estes and Finch responded swiftly, but as Dr. Pilkington was on the scene first the others withdrew knowing that all would be done under his careful ministration.

The fire department assembled rapidly and the burning building soon reduced to a charred shell...

[The boy died soon after and his baby sister survived until the next day.]

Christ Konias

Astoria, Oregon, on the 8th day of Feb. 1909

Native of Greece, about 52 years of age.

We the undersigned jurors being first duly sworn, depose and say that we have this date at the request of the coroner, examined into the cause of the death of Christ Konias, and find that he came to his death

at Clifton, Clatsop County, on Feb. 5, 1909 by blows upon the head inflicted by one Andrew Moucous, and by the evidence shown, we the undersigned jurors, believe said Andrew Moucous guilty of the crime of murder. [Note: the *Oregonian* spells the name "Moricous." --J.A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

Jury:
D.H. Welch
M. Franciscovich
W.T. Bohanon
Wm. Dench
J. Heblack
E. Donelly

Witnesses:
D. Falangus, Clifton
Christ John, Astoria, cook
John Stratis, Astoria, cook
J.A. Fulton, Astoria, Physician
John Aete, Astoria, Cook
McClane, Astoria, Deputy Sheriff

Morning Oregonian February 9, 1909

THE CLIFTON MURDER WAS ATROCIOUS

The murder of the Greek at Clifton on last Friday night, as briefly recounted in the Astorian of Sunday morning, was a most atrocious affair. The dead man's name has been ascertained as Chris Konias, while the name of his traveling companion who presumably killed him, is Andro Moucous. Konias was a large man, but one of his legs had been cut off, while his murderer, Mouccous, is a solidly built man, of only about five feet, four or five inches in height, but of compact build, and powerful.

While Moucous has not yet been apprehended his capture should seem certain, as he is a man easily distinguished anywhere. While quite evidently of foreign appearance, he talks English readily. His cheks are red—so red as to be noticed. In contrast to his red cheeks his hair and beard, are quite gray; he wears a stubby gray mustache, and while the rest of his face is haven, the beard shows its grayish tinge to any observer. When last seen this short, solidly built man, with red cheeks and gray stubby mustache, wore a sweater.

Konias, the man with one leg, and Moucous both came to this city a week ago yesterday. They had been in Portland before coming here, and there the murdered man had cashed a draft made out by a San Francisco bank for the sum of $500, which he later carried in cash about his person. The two men came here to raise [?missing] begging; they secured much money here, in some places telling that the money was needed for the crippled man, in other places averring that both had been in hard luck and wished to return to Greece. Around the city they may have secured from $50 to $100, while at Tongue Point, among the Greeks, they secured $60. They also went to Knappton and other nearby places, evidently making a rich harvest. Finally, last Thursday, they arrived at Clifton. There they were given permission to sleep in the old hall, which stands off to one side from the other habituated places. The day following they went about among the Greeks and raised money there, and that night both retired to the hall again. The next morning the body of the crippled man was discovered outside of the old hall, having been thrown out of a window.

The murderer had disappeared and has been seen in only one place since, at Clatskanie, on Saturday night.

The crippled man had been killed by repeated blows on the head with a bar of iron—a drift bolt, used for driving in the tops of piles to attach ropes to. The legs had been cut from the body, evidently with an

axe, though no axe has been found. It is possible that the murderer intended to burn the body in the large stove in the old hall, but for some reason desisted and then threw it out of the window in the shallow water that backs in there when the tide is high. To have carried the body over to the river would have risked the danger of going past the houses. All of the murdered man's money was gone—the $500, and his share of their alms may have amounted to a couple of hundred more.

Sheriff Pomeroy went to Portland yesterday in search for the murderer, and a description of the man has been given to the authorities there and to railway conductors. If the man has gone into the interior he may not be found for a time, unless the newspapers of the state now give a belated description of him.

Stories are not told among the Greeks of the murderous propensities of Moucous, the murderer. It is said he once killed a man in Greece, and another in California, and if these stories are believed by the Greeks here it may account in part why they gave him money; choosing rather to give than to earn his enmity. It is said the dead man has a brother working at Marysville, Cal.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Gilbaugh and a verdict returned holding Moucous guilty of the crime. The jury consisted of D.H. Welch, M. Franciscovich, W.T. Bohannon, William Dench, J. Beblock, E. Donnely.

The murder seems to have been an atrocious crime committed in cold blood for money. That the man can escape seems unlikely.

F.P. Moon

Examination Astoria Ore, 19th day of Feb. 1909

Native of America, aged about 56 years

Cause of death – Pernicious anemia, as revealed at the autopsy held on Feb. 19—09 by R.J. Pilkington, he was supposed to have died from the effects of poison administered by his wife but could find no trace of any and is holding specimen for analysis if necessary. F.P. Moon died Feb. 18th 09 on board steamer *T.J. Potter* near Astoria, Ore. --J.A. Gilbaugh

Witnesses:
R.J. Pilkington, Astoria, Physician
W.B. Chilton, Hammond, Clerk
Mrs. W.B. Chilton, Hammond, daughter of F.P. Moon & wife of W.B Chilton
H. Logan, The Dalles, Physician

[The obituary in the February 19, 1909 Morning Astorian makes no mention of the suspicion of murder.)

Died on the Way Home—

When the O.R. & N. steamer T.J. Potter from Portland, docked at her berth here yesterday morning, she bore the mortal remains of F.P. Moon, of Hammond, who had died in his stateroom on the way home. Mr. Moon had been at The Dalles for several weeks, and has been a sick man for some time past. He was accompanied by his daughter, Mrs. W. Chilton, and had he lived, would have sought treatment at

the post hospital at Fort Stevens. Mr. Moon leaves a wife and two daughters to mourn his demise. The funeral will take place from the home of Mrs. Chilton on Sunday next, at Hammond.

Anna Anet – Buried Seal River, Washington

Examination at Astoria Oregon on the 27th day of Feb. 1909

Native of Oregon, aged 25 years

Deceased came to her death at the Tyberg Saloon on 6th & Bond St. by taking carbolic acid with suicidal intent on Feb. 26th 09 – deceased had been drinking for some time to excess – had some trouble with her lover – then went to Eagle Drug store and bought some carbolic acid. On her way home she bid several of her friends good bye and said she was going on a long trip never to come back. She was discovered just after she had taken the poison and Dr. Finch was called but could do nothing for her. --J. A. Gilbaugh

Witnesses:
A.A. Finch, Astoria, physician
J.E. Kuivala, Astoria, bartender
R. Thomasson, Astoria

Inventory:
Two diamond ear rings or screws
One opal ring – ten cents in money and all personal effect consisting of wearing apparel and of little value.
Delivered all property to Sister, Mrs. Hilda Saari

The Morning Astorian of Feb. 28, 1909

By Carbolic Acid—

Annie Arnet, a woman of the lower end of town, more familiarly known as "Russian Annie," last night drank a large quantity of carbolic acid and died in a few minutes. She has relatives in this community. No particular cause for the deed is known.

[The name is actually Anet. Her family appears to have written her out of the family tree on Ancestry.com but she has the same parents as the other Anet members at the Seal River, Washington cemetery. Hilda Saari (Saarinen) also has the same parents.]

Emil Holz – GW Cemetery

Inquest 3rd of March 1909

Native of Germany, about 40 years of age

We the undersigned, sworn to inquire into the cause of the death of Emil Holz, after duly considering the evidence brought before us find that said Emil Holz came to his death on board the Steamer Schooner *Luzon* while said vessel was being towed toward sea, and while he was assisting in cutting the anchor, that he was on the forward part of the vessel of his own choice as his proper place at that time was aft and that as the fish tacle pendant parted, the upper block came down hitting the said Emil Holz on the head, crushing his skull and killing him instantly. That this was an unavoidable accident and we find no one to blame therefore. --Signed by the Jury, J.A. Gilbaugh

Jury
C.S. Gunderson
M.D. Staples
J.J. Hayes
T.J. Markham
H.A. Mathews
J.H. Harriman

Witnesses
H.L. Henderson, Physician
W. Yuhorke, Sailor 2nd Mate
A.T. Tansley Sailor 1st Mate
Capt. N.P. Benson Captain

Morning Astorian of March 4, 1909

BRAINS DASHED OUT BY A FALLING BLOCK

SECOND MATE EMIL HOLZ OF THE SCHOONER LUZON INSTANTLY KILLED

Yesterday morning at 8:40 o'clock, as the bar tug *Wallula* approached the four-masted schooner *Luzon*, Capt. N.P. Benson, lying in the upper city channel, and took her in tow for the open sea, laden with 600,000 feet of lumber, from Stella and bound for San Pedro, the officers and crew were busy fishing the anchor, which work was done by a pendant tackle made fast to the foremast-head and which was served through a heavy three-sheaved block, the whole being a stout and ponderous lot of stuff. Without any warning whatever, the gear aloft carried away and the massive block crashed down, catching Second Mate Emil Holz, of the Luzon, squarely on the crown of his head, crushing it like an egg-shell and killing him on the instant.

The body of the mate was at once brought ashore and turned over to County Coroner J.A. Gilbaugh, for the necessary legal inquiry into the sad death of the man, and that was prosecuted later in the day, when a jury, consisting of Captains C.S. Gunderson, H.A. Mathews, J.H. Harriman, M.D. Staples and Messrs. John Day and Thomas Markham, upon due summons, sat upon the case and made the proper investigation, rendering a verdict in the following terms. [See above statement, so won't repeat it]

Captain Benson, of the Luzon, says that this is the first time he has been overtaken by any such accident in the 35 years he has served as master and man, on the high seas, and he deeply regrets the dreadful accident. The schooner will probably sail this morning.

Mr. Holz was a member of the Aberdeen Aerie of Eagles in good standing, and that lodge has been communicated with by Coroner Gilbaugh, and an answer was received last evening, asking that Astoria Aerie No. 17 take care of the obsequies and that Aerie, No. 24 of Aberdeen, would cover all expense. Mr. Holz was about 35 years of age, and unmarried and bore an excellent reputation.

Mrs. Tansley, wife of the first mate of the *Luzon*, arrived in this city yesterday morning from the East, to see her husband, and just managed to meet and greet him, prior to his departure for the lower coast of

California, whither she will now have to follow him, a circumstance full of disappointment for them both.